



League News June 2002

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Matchup of the Month



VERSUS



| | | |
|------------|------------------|---------|
| Glen Allen | Tale of the Tape | Stanley |
| .264 | 2002 Stats | .270 |
| .753 | Batting Average | .802 |
| 4.16 | OPS | 4.44 |
| 40 | ERA | 40 |
| 31-25 | Errors | 31-25 |
| | Record | |

This month's *Matchup* features 2001 divisional winners. Looking at the 'Tale of the Tape' I don't think I could have found two more evenly matched BRASSball squads. This series could be a playoff preview, although both teams still have to slug their way through tough 2002 campaigns first. The results of this series may give some indication as to which squad is better prepared at the moment for the rest of the season.

The series started in Stanley with two quality lefties set to go. Reigning Cy Young winner Randy Johnson was going for the Sioux while Jim sent out a very talented young lefty in Barry Zito. The Mets struck first in the third with a two run homer from rookie sensation Albert Pujols. In the fourth the Sioux got a run back as Paul LoDuca singled in Frankie Menechino, who had tripled. In the seventh the Sioux got a leadoff double from Jermaine Dye. Klesko then whiffed and Neifi Perez walked to set up a possible DP for Zito to get out of the jam. Paul sent Cirillo up to pinch hit for Menechino. Zito unfortunately cracked a wild pitch to mess up the potential double play. Cirillo then promptly smacked a long fly ball to right to get the tying run in on the sac fly. Both teams then went quietly through the ninth and game one headed for extra frames. In the top of the tenth the Mets got a leadoff double of their own from Mike Lansing. Danny Bautista harmlessly flew out to center. Weltz, not wanting to kick himself after the game, had Dave Weathers put Pujols on intentionally to setup the DP. Felix

Rodriguez was summoned from the pen to hold this game for the Sioux. Trot Nixon followed and he walked too to load the bases. So with one out and the bases loaded up stepped Ben Molina. Whiff! There were two outs now and veteran Eric Karros the batter. The vet came through as he worked a walk out of Fe-Rod. 3-2 lead for the Mets. Bob Wickman came in the close it out for the Mets in the tenth, but not before putting runners on the corners with two outs. A strikeout of Jeff Kent put an end to the drama and the Mets had game one.

Game 2 was a wild offensive affair. After batting in the sixth the Mets had a 6-3 lead. The Sioux, though, kicked it in and scored ten runs in the next three innings to eventually win 13-8. Pujols homered again for the Mets and drove in five runs. Raffy Palmeiro and Jermaine Dye both drove in three for the Sioux while Bernie Williams went 3 for 5.

The final game in Stanley was anti-climatic. The Sioux came out slugging right away in this one and built up an 8-4 lead after four innings. Moises Alou was 3 for 4 with 4 ribbies in the game. Palmeiro a perfect 4-4 with three runs knocked in. Albert Pujols homered yet again for the Mets. Sioux bullpen, led by Fe-Rod, was strong in relief, as they did not allow a run in the finale. On to Glen Allen with the Sioux up 2 games to 1.

The opener in Glen Allen featured Stanley calling upon youngster Joel Pineiro in the heat of a pennant race. Alou helped out the rook with a 2-run blast in the first inning for the early lead. Solo runs in the second and fourth got the lead out to 4-1 for the Sioux. In the fifth the Sioux were able to end Steve Trachsel's start thanks to Terry Shumpert's 2-run homer. From there Stanley cruised to a 9-3 victory.

Game two in Glen Allen went much like the first as the Sioux won with an identical 9-3 score. However, the Sioux impressively won this game on the strength of seven homers. In order: Moises Alou, Paul LoDuca, Raffy, Neifi Perez, Jeff Kent, Raffy again and then Klesko to finish the barrage. Rick Helling threw eight plus strong innings to get the win.

The sixth game of the matchup featured a repeat of the game one pitching matchup between Johnson and Zito. For the third straight game Moises Alou struck in the first inning, this time a RBI single. A two out Velarde single evened things up after the Mets half of the first. In the second inning the Sioux got some breathing room thanks to a two run triple from Raffy. Combined with another run and the Sioux were up 4-1. In the top of the fourth a Moises single extended the lead to 5-1. A curious thing was going on for Barry Zito though- 10 whiffs through 4 complete. In the bottom of the frame the Mets got a two run homer from Eric Karros to get it back to a two run deficit. That would be the end to the scoring though for the Mets. Another run in the eighth secured for the Sioux the series. Barry Zito finished with an impressive list of 15 K's. Kent, Dye and Klesko all had no clue against Barry as they each whiffed three times. Randy Johnson finished with 10 K's of his own through eight solid innings.

The finale started off like all the previous contests seemed to- with the Sioux out to early leads. Through four innings of play they were up 5-1. Bu this time the Mets battled back. Two runs came in in the fifth on consecutive base hits. In the seventh a two run double by Albert Pujols tied things up at five. With the fans cheering them on David Segui delivered a base knock to drive in Albert from second for the lead. In the eighth a Mel Mora double produced the final 7-5 score. Wickie came on to shut down the Sioux in the ninth and get the Mets their second win in seven games. Todd Ritchie bulldogged his way through eight innings to get the victory.

The series overall ended up falling short of expectations. Oh well. The Sioux dominated offensively. The Mets had a tough month overall but managed to stay close in their division. The Sioux needed every win from this series as they continue to play better, but so do their division mates. The Mets have to be encouraged though by the performances of their two young shining stars: Albert Pujols and Barry

Zito. Pujols homered four times and was the driving Met force. Barry showed why he's one of the most promising lefties in BRASSball this side of Bloomington.

AL Notes

In the AL East the Cutters are starting to put the hammer down. A fine 21-7 June has their lead in the division bulged out to double digits. The hitting star for the month was Bret Boone, by far. He hit .365, smacked 11 homers and drove in 33 runs. Torii Hunter actually topped him in average at .368 and also contributed 9 round-trippers of his own. The Cutters as a whole hit .304 with 57 homers. All of this with stud Barry Bonds having an off month as he

AL East Standings

| | | |
|-----------|-------|-----|
| Moline | 61-23 | --- |
| Hessville | 51-33 | 10 |
| Georgia | 50-34 | 11 |
| Minnesota | 44-40 | 17 |

Wade Miller's No-Hitter

| | AB | R | H | BI |
|---------------|----|---|---|----|
| Box City | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Erstad, cf | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Knoblauch, dh | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lofton, lf | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mueller, 3b | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Casanova, c | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| O'Leary, rf | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Offerman, 1b | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gomez, ss | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Martinez, 2b | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Thome, ph | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 24 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | AB | R | H | BI |
|----------------|----|---|---|----|
| Georgia | 4 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Vina, 2b | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cameron, rf-lf | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| White, lf | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| O'Neill, pr-rf | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Jones, cf | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Trammell, dh | 4 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Lee, 1b | 4 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Bell, 3b | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Johnson, c | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hernandez, ss | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Reese, ss | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 32 | 7 | 9 | 6 |

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Box City.....000 000 000 | 0 0 0 |
| Georgia.....000 400 03X | 7 9 0 |

| | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
|----------|-----|---|---|----|----|----|
| Box City | | | | | | |
| Nagy, L | 7.1 | 8 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 4 |
| Benes | .2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

| | IP | H | R | ER | BB | SO |
|-----------|----|---|---|----|----|----|
| Georgia | | | | | | |
| Miller, W | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 5 |

Home Runs: Trammell, Lee
A- 49,268 T- 2:31

managed a meager .214 average in June. Curt Schilling was perfect on the mound for a second month (5-0) and has raised his record to 14-1 for the year. I believe we have identified the All-Star starter here. Kelvim Escobar pitched a 4-1 June for the Cutters also.

Hessville also enjoyed a fine June (17-11) but it wasn't enough to gain on Moline, nor turn away streaking Georgia. In any event Jim has his squad firmly placed for a post-season berth at the moment. Larry Walker and Big Mac both hit over .400 in June. New acquisition Jason Giambi is definitely the story now in Hessville as he hit .343 in his debut with 9 homers and 27 ribbies. Marquis Grissom contributed 6 homers in a part-time role. The pitching was not so bright for the Everreadys, however. The team sported a 5.77 ERA. Aaron Sele was 4-1 in June, albeit with a 6 plus earnie. Actually only two pitchers managed to have an ERA under four in June and that was the pair of solid pen-mates, Josias Manzanillo and Tom Gordon.

Whoosh! The Georgia Braves have rocketed into the playoff picture with a 21-7 June. The Braves enjoyed their best offensive production, hitting .311 with 40 dingers in the month. Derrek Lee hit .387 and drove in 21. Newcomer Andruw Jones hit .372 with 20 ribs. Jose Hernandez hit .340 and team high 7 dingers. Even Bubba Trammell dominated hitting over .400 with 18 ribbies in 57 AB's. The pitching fed off the hitting and showed dramatic improvement. Russ Ortiz 5-0 in June. Tim Hudson 4-1. Wade Miller even tossed a no-hitter (see left). Unfortunately for him though he

ended up 2-3 for the month with a 5.08 ERA.

In last for the first time in a few seasons are the Mudcats. With another mediocre month (14-14) it appears the Mudcats are relegated to spoiler. Management has sunk its efforts into retooling the squad for the future in hopes of attaining some league hardware. That being said the month of June was a washout. Alex Rodriguez had his best month so far, hitting .354 with 12 homers. New second sacker Todd Walker hit .360 and allayed fears about his defense as he committed only one error. Matt Morris continues to produce his contract worth (3-1, 3.00 for June) and is angling for an all-star spot.

Steady as they go, the Maulers continue to be one of the best teams in BRASSball. A 17-11 June was punctuated by the fact that they did not lose a series to any team from the formidable AL East. They may not have the best record but they appear to rise to meet the best at the moment. A punishing offense continues its assault now into the summer months. In June six Maulers hit six or more homers. Jeff Bagwell hit.451! Gary Sheffield .420. Both Vlad Guerrero (.351) and Rich Aurilia were still awesome even though they had cooled off by their standards in June. Pitching is still shaky as it registered a 5.42 ERA for the month. Rocket Clemens was 4-2 despite a bloated ERA. Bullpen work of Mariano Rivera and Steve Kline really stood out in June as they allowed only 10 hits and 3 runs in 24 innings of combined work. The Rubes still hold second in the Central, but they stumbled badly in June (11-17) and have an awful lot of ground to makeup for a playoff spot. Defensively the team made the most errors in the AL in June (24). Mark McLemore stole 10 bases and hit .312 in June. Mags slumped to .309 but still drove in 26 runs to lead the Rubes. Speedy Cristian Guzman hit .337 and tied for the team lead with 7 taters. Jose Cruz had his worst month, hitting .248. Hideo Nomo finally got his act together in June. His 2.13 June ERA dropped him down to 5.16 for the year. Tanyon Sturtze (8.23) and Jose Mercedes (7.66) will save no game tapes from June.

AL Central Standings

| | | |
|-------------|-------|-----|
| Cook County | 53-31 | --- |
| Iowa | 39-45 | 14 |
| Plaza | 31-53 | 22 |
| Box City | 26-58 | 27 |

The spunky Plaza Lions dropped like rocks in June (6-22). The guys hit only .224. Despite a .319 average and 21 extra-base hits, including 12 dingers, call-up Adam Dunn could muster only 17 ribbies. Tony Fernandez the only other month of note as he hit .310. Better play expected from sparkplug Luis Castillo who hit .183. Gil Heredia definitely deserved a better fate for his 3.50 ERA (1-5). Allen Levrault was 2-1 with a 3.49 ERA, doing yeoman's work out of the Lion pen.

Box City finished June with a miserable 5-23 record. Bill Mueller did hit .377 in June. Darin Erstad got going and hit .303, albeit with little production. Knobber had a .395 OBP for the month. But my, oh my that pitching. Their 6.62 ERA was the worst in the AL. Jimmy Haynes and Chuck Nagy both went 1-5. Esteban Loaiza a bit better as he went 1-4. Times will get even tougher with Jim Thome now traded away.

June in the AL West remained relatively calm and that included the leaders, Toledo. Not a stellar month (16-12), but more than enough to hold a comfortable divisional lead. Jeromy Burnitz led the hitting attack as he hit .299 with 8 homers and 15 ribbies in June. Richie Sexson tumbled to earth with a .227 June. He did however smack 9 taters to lead the Mudhens. Mike Lamb hit .336. Luis Rivas (.229) and Edgar Martinez (.236) need to forget June. Kerry Wood 4-1 in June. 46 more strikeouts has him a close second behind Curt Schilling for the AL lead. Call-up Bud Smith was 3-2 with a 3.06 ERA for the month. Scott Sauerbeck best out of the pen.

AL West Standings

| | | |
|--------------|-------|-----|
| Toledo | 47-37 | --- |
| La Crosse | 40-44 | 7 |
| Brooklyn | 38-46 | 9 |
| San. Barbara | 30-54 | 17 |

La Crosse took second place over in the division with their season's best performance (17-11). The Lagers got big homer months from AL leader Manny Ramirez (12) and Eric Chavez (10). Middle infield tandem of Ricky Gutierrez (.353) and Jerry Hairston (.325) enjoyed a fine month of action. Backup catcher Greg Myers slugged 7 homers in 56 AB's in June. Reliever Octavio Dotel had the best month on the mound for the Lagers (3-1, 3.30). Dustin Hermanson had a bizarre month as he started six games, posted a nimble 3.89 ERA, yet received not one decision. Odd. Wells, Millwood and Chen were simply blasted in June as all had ERA's over six.

Another so-so month (14-14) has management in Brooklyn contemplating the off-season already, I do believe. Free agent pickup Phil Nevin was big in June (.302-10-25). Veterans Robbie Alomar (.316) and Tino Martinez (.315) did their part. Touted youngster Juan Pierre even seemed to get moving (.278). Alex Gonzalez another miserable month as he hit .223. Greg Maddux basically secured an all-star spot with his June performance (4-1, 3.62). Kevin Appier had an even better ERA of 3.10, but came with just three victories. Andy Pettitte is definitely better than his 10.36 June ERA.

The Outlaws bring up the rear again, but their month was better (12-16) at least. Call-up Rob Fick hit .325 with 9 dingers and 20 ribbies. Team anchor Garrett Anderson drove in 23. Raul Mondesi sputtered in June to a .248 average. Pitching was at its best as the staff came in with a 4.27 ERA for June. Byung Hyun Kim 3-1 in relief with a dazzling 1.52 ERA. Tomo Ohka was 2-2 despite a fine 3.44 ERA. Matt Clement and Doug Davis deserved better than their 1-3 records. Bart Colon 3-1 in June.

•
June AL Leaders: Jeff Bagwell a .451 batting average. Juan Uribe 4 triples. Alex Rodriguez 12 homers. Geoff Jenkins 34 whiffs. Quilvio Veras hit by 7 pitches. Adam Dunn slugged .813. Bret Boone 85 total bases. Michael Barrett allowed 24 steals. Russ Ortiz 5 wins. Byung Hyun Kim 1.52 ERA. Curt Schilling went the distance four times. Kaz Sasaki 8 saves. Russ Ortiz 3 shutouts (!). Kevin Millwood 12 taters allowed. Joe Kennedy 6 wild pitches. Esteban Loaiza 0.76 walks per 9 innings.

| AL STATS LEADERBOARD | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------|---------------------|----|-------------------|----|
| Batting Average | | Strikeouts | | Doubles | |
| Rich Aurilia, CC | .382 | Mike Cameron, GEO | 96 | Vlad Guerrero, CC | 32 |
| Gary Sheffield, CC | .353 | Jose Hernandez, GEO | 93 | Mike Sweeney, LAC | 29 |
| Ricky Gutierrez, LAC | .352 | Troy Glaus, CC | 91 | Jose Cruz, IOWA | 29 |
| Vlad Guerrero, CC | .349 | Richie Sexson, TOL | 86 | Jason Giambi, HES | 29 |
| Bret Boone, MOL | .344 | Manny Ramirez, LAC | 86 | Jeff Bagwell, CC | 28 |

NL Notes

On the strength of a 12-16 June the Heat have claimed first place in the NL East. Obviously, no team is running away here and things figure to go unsettled till September. Royce Clayton continues to dazzle for the Heat as he hit .368 in June in more limited time. Racine only hit 15 homers in the month, capped by Marty Cordova's 5. Youngsters Eckstein and Mientkiewicz hitting over .300. Devo White got the legs pumping and stole 7 June bases. Brad Radke was 3-0, 3.25 in June. Joe Mays 3-2. Jose Jimenez went 2-4 through 16 relief appearances with a seven plus ERA. Equal opportunity pen: 9 different Heat pitchers have recorded a save in 2002, the latest being Junior Herndon.

| NL East Standings | | |
|--------------------------|-------|-----|
| Racine | 43-41 | --- |
| Springfield | 41-43 | 2 |
| Glen Allen | 41-43 | 2 |
| Charlevoix | 32-52 | 11 |

Whither Springfield? Everybody's favorite glow-in-the dark team tumbled out of first in June thanks to a 7-21 effort. Topes hit .220 and pitched their way to a 6.25 ERA. Bad combination, obviously. Craig Biggio the highlighted Tope player in June as he led the team in every important category: .288-7-20. Another disappointing month from Corey Koskie (.225) has him hitting only .243 on the season. The three young guns of the staff (Ortiz, Mulder & Washburn) all tumbled in June as they all sported 5-plus ERA's. Maybe it's time for Senor Burns to bring in some ringers?

Glen Allen had a 10-18 record in June, which was good enough to keep them in the race. Albert Pujols is simply something to behold. He hit only .273, but drove in 20% of the Met runs for the month (26). Mike Lansing, Dante Bichette and Danny Bautista all played well in part-time roles. Eric Milton 3-1 in June. Wickie saved 7 of the 10 Met victories. Steve Trachsel was bombed in six starts (8.36) and didn't win once (0-4), this after a nice start to his season.

Charlevoix with its 9-19 record fared about the same in June as its division mates. This is actually quite surprising given the Tiger staff produced an 8.38 ERA for the month. A .312 team batting average will overcome some mound miscues I guess ☺ Lance Berkman had one of the better months in the NL in June: 386-8-31. Ruben Rivera hit .333 and drove in 20 runs. Castoff Deivi Cruz slugged 7 June homers, drove in 27 runners and hit .304. Wow! Armando Reynoso fared the best on this battered staff as he ended up June going 2-1 with a 2.60 ERA. Closer Matt Anderson somehow went 1-5 with a 12.66 ERA in 11 relief appearances. Darren Oliver's and Joey Hamilton's months are best left unmentioned.



Not all the teams are over .500 in the NL Central like the AL East, but it's close and this figures to be a great race to the end. Stanley (19-9) continues to hold their lead by a slim two game margin through June play. The Sioux hit a BRASSball best .331 for the month. Jeff Kent .435 with 31 ribbies. Moises Alou .433 with 32 driven in. Raffy slugged 10 dingers. Bernie Williams .344. Ryan Klesko still performing quite well. Easily the best Sioux hitting month in 2002. Randy Johnson dominated in June as he went 5-0 with a miniscule 1.31 ERA. Call-up Joe Pineiro started five contests, won only two, but posted a 2.36 ERA. Rick Helling kept the ball in the park (only 2 dingers) and thus enjoyed solid results: 3-1, 3.12. John Burkett rounds out a fine month from the Sioux starters by going 4-1.

| | | |
|-------------|-------|-----|
| Stanley | 50-34 | --- |
| Columbus | 48-36 | 2 |
| Bloomington | 45-39 | 5 |
| Fleetwood | 41-43 | 9 |

Second to Stanley hitting in June were the Buckeyes (.328). A 20-8 month by the Bucks have them only two games off the lead headed to the second half of the campaign. Carlos Beltran hit .411 to lead the team, drove in 32 runs (also led) and swiped 7 bases to top it all off. Scott Rolen slugged 8 homers and hit .359. John Olerud checked in with a .369 June. Ray Durham 21 extra-base hits and a .330 average. Bobby Higginson hit .327 and swiped 11 bases. Like the Sioux they enjoyed their finest offensive display of the year. Kevin Tapani won all five of his starts on his way to a 1.45 ERA. Paul Abbott 3-0, 3.86. Mike Morgan won 2 games in relief despite a 9.13 ERA. Vulture ☺ Randy Wolf had a disappointing June (0-1, 7.04) after a fine first two months.

Bloomington went 18-10 in June and actually lost a little ground on the leaders. Tough division. 51 more steals by the Bees must have them on course for a BRASSball record (note to self: learn of this info). Ichiro (17) and Gabe Kapler (14) led this merry band of thieves. Ichiro also hit .347. Juan Gonzalez hit .314 and led the Bees in the power categories with 8 dingers and 23 ribbies. Preston Wilson nailed 7 homers too. Mark Buehrle was 5-1 in June to raise his season mark to 11-4. Moose 4-2 with a 3.93 ERA in June. Jesus Colome produced an excellent month out of the pen as he posted a 1.29 in 14 innings of work. Rookie CC Sabathia had his first rough month: 1-1, 6.94.

Fleetwood is still in last in the Central, but it's not for a lack of trying (17-11). They have put a tortuous April behind them and have climbed into wild card contention. Bob Abreu hit .345 with 19 extra-base hits to pace the June Walker attack. Chipper Jones' 8 homers and 25 ribbies led the Walkers in both categories. Shannon Stewart hit .387. Jim Edmonds fell down a bit as he could muster only 2 homers in June with 10 ribbies. Damion Easley (.208-2-13 for the season) producing little at the keystone for the Walkers. Walker starters had a tough time in June. Steve Sparks gutted out a 4-1 record despite an

underwhelming 4.57 ERA. Best numbers were had by ace Al Leiter (2.20) and he ended up winless (0-3) for June. Esteban Yan 3-0 with 4 saves in nine efficient appearances.



Ocala must be trying out new lineups or something because Corey could only go 17-11 in June ☺ Ah, but the juggernaut continues to roll on through BRASSball (55-29). Todd Helton enjoyed his best month so far: .366-9-35. Ron Gant hit .378 with 17 ribbies and 10 extra base hits in platoon duty. Edgardo Alfonzo picked it up (.289) while Derek Jeter (.253) remains stalled. Sammy Sosa was human in June (.268), but still knocked in 33 runners. Troy Percival recorded 9 June saves and damn near went hitless in 10 innings of work. Javier Vazquez posted a sharp 4-0 June with a 2.60 ERA. The other four starters all managed to win games despite ERAs bloated over five. Perhaps the pitching is not up to the task in Ocala? We'll see. Rumor has it that Roy Oswalt is coming back up again.

| NL West Standings | | | |
|-------------------|-------|-----|--|
| Ocala | 55-29 | --- | |
| Gem City | 42-42 | 13 | |
| N. Georgia | 42-42 | 13 | |
| Metropolis | 18-66 | 37 | |

Gem City had another frustratingly mediocre 14-14 month. The result has been the dealing of ace Chan Ho Park away to Moline. Pudge Rodriguez had a fine month: .320-10-25. Reggie Sanders got going finally and hit .301, drove in 26 runs to lead the team and hit 6 dingers. Carlos Delgado hit 7 taters of his own but his .256 average on the season is of great concern to Wolfpack management. Julio Lugo hit .210 and led all of BRASSball with 12 errors in June. Shake it off young fella. Daryl Kile 4-1 despite a 4.73 ERA. Fine relief work put in by Trombley, Stewart and Borbon.

North Georgia stays in the wild card race with a 14-14 month of their own. Fred McGriff had a very productive .250 average in June as he led the Jackets with 7 dingers and 21 ribbies. Brian Jordan hit .330 with 10 doubles and 6 taters. Edgar Renteria hit .325. Dougie Glanville was steady in June, hitting .298. Ron Coomer (.295) and Placido Polanco (.284) contributed too. Jason Bere 4-2 with a 2.88 June ERA. Smoltz doesn't allow a June run on his way to six saves. Cal Maduro and Steve Parris were pounded hard in June.

The Avengers continue to struggle although I believe their 5.98 ERA is the best of the year so far for them. Pat Burrell hit .272 and led the squad with 7 homers and 19 ribbies. Call-up Julio Zuleta hit .274 with 4 souvenir balls. Olmedo Saenz drove in 14 runners despite a .173 average. Tony Armas Jr. was impressive as he posted a 3-1, 3.21 June. Chris Michalak was 2-2 despite a 4.67 ERA. Paul Rigdon did not enjoy his call-up to the show: 1-3, 9.00.



June NL Leaders: Rickey Henderson 30 runs scored. Carlos Beltran 51 hits. Todd Helton 18 doubles. Shawn Green 10 homers. Raffy Palmeiro 5 intentional walks. Pat Burrell 36 whiffs. Brian Jordan hit into 9 double-plays. Lance Berkman slugged .719. Moises Alou got on at a .486 clip. Paul Bako allowed 30 steals. Mark Buehrle 5 wins. Randy Johnson a 1.31 ERA. Troy Percival 9 saves. Adam Eaton allowed 13 dingers. Opponents hit only .173 off Kevin Tapani.

| NL STATS LEADERBOARD | | | | | |
|----------------------|----|------------------------|------|--------------------|----|
| Wins | | Walks per nine innings | | Home Runs allowed | |
| Randy Johnson, STA | 12 | Brad Radke, RAC | 1.08 | Shawn Chacon, OCA | 35 |
| Chan Ho Park, GEM | 11 | Mark Buehrle, BLO | 1.46 | Omar Daal, CHA | 30 |
| Javier Vazquez, OCA | 11 | Rick Reed, GEM | 1.47 | Darren Oliver, CHA | 27 |
| Mark Buehrle, BLO | 11 | Steve Trachsel, GA | 1.98 | Adam Eaton, OCA | 25 |

Award Watch

This month of the Watch sees perennial MVP candidate Manny Ramirez featured. Carlos Beltran is the catalyst of the Columbus offense. Also highlighted are a handful of pitchers who are off to incredible starts.

| Award | Player | AVG | OBP | SLG | HR | RBI | R | SB | |
|--------|---------------------|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|----|-----|
| AL MVP | Manny Ramirez, LAC | .302 | .389 | .682 | 36 | 78 | 63 | 0 | |
| NL MVP | Carlos Beltran, COL | .342 | .397 | .521 | 10 | 75 | 49 | 18 | |
| | | W | L | SV | ERA | IP | H | BB | K |
| AL ROY | Byung Hyun Kim, SB | 4 | 3 | 1 | 3.12 | 52 | 38 | 31 | 57 |
| NL ROY | Mark Buehrle, BLO | 11 | 4 | 0 | 2.78 | 129 | 110 | 21 | 84 |
| AL CY | Greg Maddux, BRO | 12 | 4 | 0 | 2.80 | 145 | 122 | 25 | 97 |
| NL CY | Randy Johnson, STA | 12 | 2 | 0 | 2.95 | 131 | 102 | 34 | 176 |

No Hitter Note

Wade Miller's no-hitter is BRASSball's third no-hitter that I have verified in my records. The other two being Dave Mlicki's for Long Island in 1998 and Rick Helling's two seasons ago for Stanley. If any of you have boxscores of other no-hitters please pass them along to me so they can be dutifully recorded for posterity. Thanks.

All Star Game comes To Cook County

Enclosed in the ZIP file you will find the necessary ballots to fill out and return to me by the 15th. Instructions on how many players to vote for are included in the files. Please vote only for players in your league.

Kevin gets the honor of hosting this year's extravaganza at his very own Bill Veeck Field. The AL holds a 4-3 lead in the series and looks to take another with its home field advantage. Full details of the game will be in the next newsletter.

Fines

North Georgia was fined \$500,000 for a late mailing to the statistician.

Trades

65. Box City trades Jeff Shaw to Stanley for Tim Crabtree and Stanley's 2004 4th round draft choice.
66. Moline trades Herbert Perry, Tony Torcato, Moline's 2003 2nd round draft choice and Moline's 2004 2nd round draft choice to Gem City for Chan Ho Park, Scott Brosius and \$500,000.
67. Columbus trades Hector Mercado to Charlevoix for \$25,000.
68. Moline trades Tom Lampkin to Racine for \$300,000.
69. Cook County trades Brian Lawrence, Fernando Tatis, Ray Lankford and Jay Gibbons to Box City for Jim Thome, Greg Norton, Moline's 2003 3rd round draft choice and Stanley's 2004 4th round draft choice.

70. Charlevoix trades Kazuhisa Ishii to Santa Barbara for Eric Munson, Doug Davis, Adam Johnson, Robert Ellis, Pat Mahomes and \$3,598,000.

Signings will come from Corey with updated rosters.

Upcoming League Deadlines

July 15th Results due to opponents and statisticians (Dave & Corey)

July 15th Deadline to get your votes in for the All Star game

July 17th Trade deadline for August action

July 25th Instructions due out. Contract signings to Corey. Rotations to Mark.

Next Issue of League News

All Star game coverage from Cook County.